CHILD AND ADOLESCENT NEEDS AND STRENGTHS (CANS)

for

Indiana

INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Birth to 5

Manual

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A large number of individuals have collaborated in the development of the CANS-Comprehensive Along with the CANS versions for developmental disabilities, juvenile justice, and child welfare, this information integration tool is designed to support individual case planning and the planning and evaluation of service systems. The CANS-Comprehensive is an open domain tool for use in service delivery systems that address the mental health of children, adolescents and their families. The copyright is held by the Buddin Praed Foundation to ensure that it remains free to use. For specific permission to use please contact the Foundation. For more information on the CANS-Comprehensive assessment tool contact:

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The CANS Initial Assessment is a referral tool to support decision making about level of need for children and families seeking services. It supports the rapid and consistent communication of the needs of children who are to be served through Indiana's children's System of Care. It is intended to be completed by the individuals who are directly involved with the initial identification and referral. The assessment tool serves to document the identified needs the as both a decision support tool and as documentation of the identified needs of the child and family in order to ensure the child and family receive the appropriate services.

This tool is designed from a communication theory perspective. As such, the indicators are selected to represent the key information needed in order to decide the appropriate type and intensity of services. For each indicator, four levels are anchored in order to translate the indicator into a level of action. For the Partnership for Children Needs Assessment, these four levels can be generally translated into the following:

- **0** indicates no evidence or no reason to believe that the rated item requires any action.
- 1 indicates a need for watchful waiting, monitoring or possibly preventive action.
- 2 indicates a need for action. Some strategy is needed to address the problem/need.
- **3** indicates a need for immediate or intensive action. This level indicates an immediate safety concern or a priority for intervention.

In order to enhance the reliability of the tool, anchor points have been designed to facilitate the translation of levels of each indicator into the four action levels described above. It should be noted that these anchor points represent guidelines. Since it is not feasible to exhaustively define all circumstances that might fit a particular level, the assessor may use some clinical judgment to determine the rating when no clear choice is obvious. This judgment should be guided by a decision on the appropriate level of action required for the specific indicator.

A primary goal of this tool is to further communication with both the individual child and family and Indiana's system of care. As such, consistency and reliability in the use of the CANS Initial Assessment form is a priority. Therefore, formal training is required prior to any staff completing this tool for an actual assessment and referral.

CODING DEFINITIONS

LIFE DOMAIN FUNCTIONING

Check	FAMILY Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	No evidence of problems in interaction with family members.
1	Child is doing adequately in relationships with family members although some problems
	may exist. For example, some family members may have mild problems in their
	relationships with child including sibling rivalry or under-responsiveness to child needs.
2	Child is having moderate problems with parents, siblings and/or other family members.
	Frequent arguing, strained interaction with parent, and poor sibling relationships may be
	observed.
3	Child is having severe problems with parents, siblings, and/or other family members.
	This would include problems of domestic violence, constant arguing, and aggression with
	siblings.

Check	LIVING SITUATION Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	No evidence of problem with functioning in current living environment.
1	Mild problems with functioning in current living situation. Caregivers concerned about
	child's behavior or needs at home.
2	Moderate to severe problems with functioning in current living situation. Child has
	difficulties maintaining his/her behavior in this setting creating significant problems for
	others in the residence. Parents of infants concerned about irritability of infant and ability
	to care for infant.
3	Profound problems with functioning in current living situation. Child is at immediate risk
	of being removed from living situation due to his/her behaviors or unmet needs.

Check	PRESCHOOL/DAY CARE Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	No evidence of problems in the preschool/day care setting.
1	Child is performing adequately in preschool/day care although some concerns are present
	due to past history or poor development in social or cognitive abilities.
2	Child is experiencing moderate problems with school attendance, interaction with peers,
	interaction with teachers and/or achievement.
3	Child is experiencing severe problems with school attendance, interaction with teachers
	interaction with peers, or achievement that may even result in expulsion.

Check	SOCIAL FUNCTIONING Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	No evidence of problems in social functioning.
1	Child is having some minor problems in social relationships. Infants may be slow to respond to adults, Toddlers may need support to interact with peers and preschoolers may resist social situations.
2	Child is having some moderate problems with his/her social relationships. Infants may be unresponsive to adults, and unaware of other infants. Toddlers may be aggressive and resist parallel play. Preschoolers may argue excessively with adults and peers and lack ability to play in groups even with adult support.
3	Child is experiencing severe disruptions in his/her social relationships. Infants show no ability to interact in a meaningful manner. Toddlers are excessively withdrawn and unable to relate to familiar adults. Preschoolers show no joy or sustained interaction with peers or adults, and/or aggression may be putting others at risk.

Check	RECREATION/PLAY Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	No evidence that infant or child has problems with recreation or play.
1	Child is doing adequately with recreational or play activities although some problems may
	exist. Infants may not be easily engaged in play. Toddlers and preschoolers may seem
	uninterested and poorly able to sustain play.
2	Child is having moderate problems with recreational activities. Infants resist play or do
	not have enough opportunities for play. Toddlers and preschoolers show little enjoyment
	or interest in activities within or outside the home and can only be engaged in
	play/recreational activities with ongoing adult interaction and support.
3	Child has no access to or interest in play or recreational activities. Infant spends most of
	time non interactive. Toddlers and preschoolers even with adult encouragement can not
	demonstrate enjoyment or use play to further development.

Check	DEVELOPMENTAL Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	No evidence of developmental problems.
1	Child has some problems with acquiring new skills or there are concerns about possible
	developmental delay. Child may have low IQ.
2	Child has developmental delays or mild mental retardation. A child that has experienced
	significant developmental regression would be rated here.
3	Child has severe and pervasive developmental delays or profound mental retardation.

Check	MOTOR Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	No evidence of fine or gross motor development problems.
1	Child has some indicators that motor skills are challenging and there may be some
	concern that there is a delay.
2	Child has either fine or gross motor skill delays.
3	Child has significant delays in fine or gross motor development or both. Delay causes
	impairment in functioning.

Check	COMMUNICATION Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	No evidence of communication problems.
1	Child has a history of communication problems but currently is not experiencing problems. An infant may rarely vocalize. A toddler may have very few words and
	become frustrated with expressing needs. A preschooler may be difficult for others to understand.
2	Child has either receptive or expressive language problems that interfere with functioning. Infants may have trouble interpreting facial gestures or initiate gestures to communicate needs. Toddlers may not follow simple 1-step commands. Preschoolers may be unable to understand simple conversation or carry out 2-3 step commands.
3	Child has serious communication difficulties and is unable to communicate in any way including pointing and grunting.

Check	MEDICAL Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	Child is healthy.
1	Child has some medical problems that require medical treatment.
2	Child has chronic illness that requires ongoing medical intervention.
3	Child has life threatening illness or medical condition.

Check	PHYSICAL Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	Child has no physical limitations.
1	Child has some physical condition that places mild limitations on activities. Conditions such as impaired hearing or vision would be rated here. Rate here, treatable medical
	conditions that result in physical limitations (e.g. asthma).
2	Child has physical condition that notably impacts activities. Sensory disorders such as
	blindness, deafness, or significant motor difficulties would be rated here.
3	Child has severe physical limitations due to multiple physical conditions.

Check	SLEEP Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	Child gets a full night's sleep each night.
1	Child has some problems sleeping. Generally, child gets a full night's sleep but at least once a week problems arise. This may include occasionally wakening or bed wetting or nightmares.
2	Child is having problems with sleep. Sleep is often disrupted and child seldom obtains a full night of sleep
3	Child is generally sleep deprived. Sleeping is difficult for the child and they are not able to get a full night's sleep.

Check	RELATIONSHIP PERMANENCE Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days.
	This rating refers to the stability of significant relationships in the child or youth's life.
	This likely includes family members but may also include other individuals.
0	This level indicates a child who has very stable relationships. Family members, friends,
	and community have been stable for most of child's life and are likely to remain so in the
	foreseeable future. Child is involved with both parents.
1	This level indicates a child who has had stable relationships but there is some concern
	about instability in the near future (one year) due to transitions, illness, or age. A stable
	relationship with only one parent may be rated here.
2	This level indicates a child has had at least one stable relationship over his/her lifetime but
	has experienced other instability through factors such as divorce, moving, removal from
	home, and death.
3	This level indicates a child who does not have any stability in relationships with any
	caregiver. Independent living or adoption must be considered.

CHILD BEHAVIORAL/EMOTIONAL NEEDS

Check	ATTACHMENT Please rate based on the past 30 days
0	No evidence of problems with attachment.
1	Mild problems with attachment are present. Infants appear uncomfortable with caregivers, may resist touch, or appear anxious and clingy some of the time. Caregivers feel disconnected from infant. Older children may be overly reactive to separation or seem preoccupied with parent. Boundaries may seem inappropriate with others.
2	Moderate problems with attachment are present. Infants may fail to demonstrate stranger anxiety or have extreme reactions to separation resulting in interference with development. Older children may have ongoing problems with separation, may consistently avoid caregivers and have inappropriate boundaries with others putting them at risk.
3	Severe problems with attachment are present. Infant is unable to use caregivers to meet needs for safety and security. Older children present with either an indiscriminate attachment patterns or a withdrawn, inhibited attachment patterns. A child that meets the criteria for Reactive Attachment Disorder would be rated here.

Check	REGULTORY: BODY CONTROL/EMOTIONAL CONTROL: This item refers to the child's ability to control bodily functions such as eating, sleeping and elimination as well as activity level/intensity and sensitivity to external stimulation. The child's ability to control and modulate intense emotions is also rated here. Please rate based on the past 30 days
0	No evidence of regulatory problems.
1	Some problems with regulation are present. Infants may have unpredictable patterns and be difficult to console. Older children may require a great deal of structure and need more support than other children in coping with frustration and difficult emotions.
2	Moderate problems with regulation are present. Infants may demonstrate significant difficulties with transitions, and irritability such that consistent adult intervention is necessary and disruptive to the family. Older children may demonstrate severe reactions to sensory stimuli and emotions that interfere with their functioning and ability to progress developmentally. Older children may demonstrate such unpredictable patterns in their eating and sleeping routines that the family is disrupted and distressed.
3	Profound problems with regulation are present that place the child's safety, well being and/or development at risk.

Check	DEPRESSION Please rate based on the past 30 days
0	No evidence of problems with depression.
1	There are some indicators that the child may be depressed or has experienced situations
	that may lead to depression. Infants may appear to be withdrawn and slow to engage at times during the day. Older children are irritable or do not demonstrate a range of affect.
2	Moderate problems with depression are present. Infants demonstrate a change from previous behavior and appear to have a flat affect with little responsiveness to interaction most of the time. Older children may have negative verbalizations, dark themes in play and demonstrate little enjoyment in play and interactions. The child meets criteria for a DSM IV diagnosis.
3	Clear evidence of disabling level of depression that makes it virtually impossible for the child to function in any life domain.

Check	ANXIETY Please rate based on the past 30 days
0	No evidence
1	History or suspicion of anxiety problems or mild to moderate anxiety associated with a recent negative life event. An infant may appear anxious in certain situations but has the ability to be soothed. Older children may appear in need of extra support to cope with some situations but are able to be calmed.
2	Clear evidence of anxiety associated with either anxious mood or significant fearfulness. Anxiety has interfered significantly in child's ability to function in at least one life domain. Infants may be irritable, over reactive to stimuli, have uncontrollable crying and significant separation anxiety. Older children may have all of the above with persistent reluctance or refusal to cope with some situations.
3	Clear evidence of debilitating level of anxiety that makes it virtually impossible for the child to function in any life domain.

Check	OPPOSITIONAL Please item should be rated
	The child should be 3 years of age or older to rate this item.
0	No evidence
1	History or recent onset (past 6 weeks) of defiance towards authority figures.
2	Clear evidence of oppositional and/or defiant behavior towards authority figures, which is currently interfering with the child's functioning in at least one life domain. Behavior is persistent and caregiver's attempts to change behavior have failed.
3	Clear evidence of a dangerous level of oppositional behavior involving the threat of physical harm to others or problems in more than one life domain that is resulting in interference with child's social and emotional development.

Check	ADJUSTMENT TO TRAUMA Please rate based on the past 30 days
0	No evidence of adjustment to trauma.
1	The child has experienced a traumatic event and is not demonstrating symptoms or there
	are mild changes in the child's behavior that are controlled by caregivers.
2	Clear evidence of adjustment problems associated with traumatic life event/s. Adjustment
	is interfering with child's functioning in at least one life domain. Infants may have
	developmental regression, and/or eating and sleeping disturbance. Older children may
	have all of the above as well as behavioral symptoms, tantrums and withdrawn behavior.
3	Clear evidence of debilitating level of trauma symptoms that makes it virtually impossible
	for the child to function in any life domain.

CHILD RISK FACTORS

Check	BIRTH WEIGHT
0	Child is within normal range for weight and has been since birth. A child 5.5 pounds or
	over would be rated here.
1	Child was born under weight but is now within normal range or child is slightly beneath
	normal range. A child with a birth weight of between 3.3 pounds and 5.5 pounds would
	be rated here.
2	Child is considerably under weight to the point of presenting a developmental risk to the
	child. A child with a birth weight of 2.2 pounds to 3.3 pounds would be rated here.
3	Child is extremely under weight to the point of the child's life being threatened. A child
	with a birth weight of less than 2.2 pounds would be rated here.

Check	PICA Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
	Child must be older than 18 months to rate this item
0	No evidence that the child eats unusual or dangerous materials.
1	Child has a history of eating unusual or dangerous materials but has not done so in the last
	30 days.
2	Child has eaten unusual or dangerous materials consistent with a diagnosis of Pica in the
	last 30 days.
3	Child has become physically ill during the past 30 days by eating dangerous materials.

Check	PRENATAL CARE
0	Child's biological mother received adequate prenatal care that began in the first trimester.
	Child's mother did not experience any pregnancy related illnesses.
1	Child's biological mother had some short-comings in prenatal care, or had a mild form of
	a pregnancy related illness.
2	Child's biological mother received poor prenatal care, initiated only in the last trimester or
	had a moderate form of a pregnancy related illness.
3	Child's biological mother had no prenatal care or had a severe pregnancy related illness.

Check	LABOR AND DELIVERY
0	Child and biological mother had normal labor and delivery.
1	Child or mother had some mild problems during delivery, but child does not appear
	affected by problems.
2	Child or mother had problems during delivery that resulted in temporary functional
	difficulties for the child or mother.
3	Child had severe problems during delivery that have resulted in long term implications for
	development.

Check	SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE
0	Child had no in utero exposure to alcohol or drugs, and there is no current exposure in the
	home.
1	Child had either mild in utero exposure or there is current alcohol and/or drug use in the
	home.
2	Child was exposed to significant alcohol or drugs in utero. Any ingestion of illegal drugs
	during pregnancy or significant use of alcohol or tobacco, would be rated here.
3	Child was exposed to alcohol or drugs in utero and continues to be exposed in the home.

Check	PARENT OR SIBLING PROBLEMS
0	The child's parents have no developmental disabilities. The child has no siblings, or
	existing siblings are not experiencing any developmental or behavioral problems.
1	The child's parents have no developmental disabilities. The child has siblings who are
	experiencing some mild developmental or behavioral problems. It may be that the child
	has at least one healthy sibling.
2	The child's parents have no developmental disabilities. The child has a sibling who is
	experiencing a significant developmental or behavioral problem.
3	One or both of the child's parents have been diagnosed with a developmental disability, or
	the child has multiple siblings who are experiencing significant developmental or
	behavioral problems.

Check	MATERNAL AVAILABILITY: This dimension addresses the primary caretakers
	emotional and physical availability to the child in the weeks immediately following the
	birth. Rate maternal availability up until 12 weeks post partum.
0	The child's mother/primary caretaker was emotionally and physically available to the
	child in the weeks following the birth.
1	The primary caretaker experienced some minor or transient stressors which made her
	slightly less available to the child.
2	The primary caregiver experienced a moderate level of stress sufficient to make him/her
	significantly less emotionally and physically available to the child in the weeks following
	the birth.
3	The primary caregiver was unavailable to the child to such an extent that the child's
	emotional or physical well being was severely compromised.

Check	SELF HARM Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	No evidence
1	Mild level of self harm behavior or history of self harm.
2	Moderate level of self harm behavior such as head banging that is difficult to manage for
	the caregiver and interferes with child's functioning.
3	Severe level of self harm behavior that puts the child's safety and well being at risk.

CAREGIVER NEEDS & STRENGTHS

Check	PHYSICAL Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	Caregiver is generally healthy.
1	Caregiver is in recovery from medical/physical problems.
2	Caregiver has medical/physical problems that interfere with their capacity to parent.
3	Caregiver has medical/physical problems that make it impossible for them to parent at this
	time.

Check	MENTAL HEALTH Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	Caregiver has no mental health needs.
1	Caregiver is in recovery from mental health difficulties.
2	Caregiver has some mental health difficulties that interfere with their capacity to parent.
3	Caregiver has mental health difficulties that make it impossible for them to parent at this
	time.

Check	SUBSTANCE USE Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	Caregiver has no substance use needs.
1	Caregiver is in recovery from substance use difficulties.
2	Caregiver has some substance use difficulties that interfere with their capacity to parent.
3	Caregiver has substance use difficulties that make it impossible for them to parent at this
	time.

Check	DEVELOPMENTAL Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	Caregiver has no developmental needs.
1	Caregiver has developmental challenges but they do not currently interfere with parenting.
2	Caregiver has developmental challenges that interfere with their capacity to parent.
3	Caregiver has severe developmental challenges that make it impossible for them to parent
	at this time.

Check	SAFETY Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	Household is safe and secure. Child is at no risk from others.
1	Household is safe but concerns exist about the safety of the child in his/her neighborhood.
2	Child is in some danger from one or more individuals who have access to the household.
3	Child is in immediate danger from one or more individuals with unsupervised access.

Check	SUPERVISION Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	Caregiver has good monitoring and discipline skills.
1	Caregiver provides generally adequate supervision. May need occasional help or
	technical assistance.
2	Caregiver reports difficulties monitoring and/or disciplining child. Caregiver needs
	assistance to improve supervision skills.
3	Caregiver is unable to monitor or discipline the child. Caregiver requires immediate and
	continuing assistance. Child is at risk of harm to self due to absence of supervision.

Check	INVOLVEMENT Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	Caregiver is able to act as an effective advocate for child.
1	Caregiver has history of seeking help for child. Caregiver is open to receiving support, education, and information.
2	Caregiver does not wish to participate in services and/or interventions intended to assist child.
3	Caregiver wishes for child to be removed from their care.

Check	KNOWLEDGE Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	Caregiver is knowledgeable about the child's needs and strengths.
1	Caregiver is generally knowledgeable about the child but may require additional
	information to improve their capacity to parent.
2	Caregiver has clear need for information to improve how knowledgeable they are about
	the child. Current lack of information is interfering with their ability to parent.
3	Caregiver has knowledge problems that place the child at risk of significant negative
	outcomes.

Check	ORGANIZATION Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	Caregiver is well organized and efficient.
1	Caregiver has minimal difficulties with organizing and maintaining household to support
	needed services. For example, may be forgetful about appointments or occasionally fails
	to return case/care manager calls.
2	Caregiver has moderate difficulty organizing and maintaining household to support
	needed services.
3	Caregiver is unable to organize household to support needed services.

Check	SOCIAL RESOURCES Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	Caregiver has significant family and friend social network that actively helps with raising
	the child (e.g., child rearing).
1	Caregiver has some family or friend social network that actively helps with raising the
	child (e.g. child rearing).
2	Caregiver has some family or friend social network that may be able to help with raising
	the child (e.g., child rearing).
3	Caregiver has no family or social network that may be able to help with raising the child
	(e.g. child rearing).

Check	RESIDENTIAL STABILITY Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days
0	Caregiver has stable housing for the foreseeable future.
1	Caregiver has relatively stable housing but either has moved in the past three months or there are indications of housing problems that might force them to move in the next three months.
2	Caregiver has moved multiple times in the past year. Housing is unstable.
3	Caregiver has experienced periods of homelessness in the past six months.

Check	ACCESSIBILITY TO CHILD CARE SERVICES Please rate the highest level from					
	the past 30 days					
0	Caregiver has access to sufficient child care services.					
1	Caregiver has limited access to child care services. Needs are met minimally by existing,					
	available services.					
2	Caregiver has limited access or access to limited child care services. Current services do					
	not meet the caregiver's needs.					
3	Caregiver has no access to child care services.					

Check	FAMILY STRESS Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days				
0	Caregiver able to manage the stress of child/children's needs				
1	Caregiver has some problems managing the stress of child/children's needs.				
2	Caregiver has notable problems managing the stress of child/children's needs. This stress				
	interferes with their capacity to give care.				
3	Caregiver is unable to manage the stress associated with child/children's needs. This				
	stress prevents caregiver from parenting.				

11/30/06

Child's Name:		Date of Birth:								
KEY: 0 = no evidence or no reason to believe that the rated item requires any action. 1 = a need for watchful waiting, monitoring or possibly preventive action. 2 = a need for action. Some strategy is needed to address the problem/need. 3 = a need for immediate or intensive action. This level indicates an immediate safety concern or a priority for intervention. U = Unknown If using as a reassessment, do not use "U".										
LIFE DOMAIN FUNCT 0=no evidence of problems 1=history, mild 2=moderate 3=severe	LIFE DOMAIN FUNCTIONING 0=no evidence of problems 1=history, mild 2=moderate 3=severe									
Family O C Living Situation Preschool/Daycare Social Function O C		Motor Communication Medical Physical		0 0 0	0000	000	0 0	0		
,		Sleep Relationship Perm	anence	0	0			0		
0=no evidence 1=history or sub-threshold, 2=causing problems, consis 3=causing severe/dangerou 0 1 Attachment O O Regulatory O O Depression O O Anxiety O O Oppositional O O Adj to Trauma	tent with diagnosable disorder s problems 2 3 U 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	CHILD RISK FA 0=no evidence 1=history, watch/pro 2=recent, act 3=acute, act immedi Birth Weight Pica Prenatal Care Labor/Delivery Substance Exposur Parent/Sib. Prob. Maternal Avail. Self Harm	event ately 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	00000	000000				
Physical O C Mental Health O C Substance Use O C Developmental O C Safety O C Access to Services O C	ent	0=strength 1=some need 2=moderate need, 3=severe need, ac Supervision Involvement Knowledge Organization Social Resources Residential Stabiling	t immedia	0	tensive of	2 0 0	0 0 0	U 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		